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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,502	02/02/2001	Keiichi Kusumoto	10873.644US01	3298

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EXAMINER

PATEL, PARESH H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/773,502

Applicant(s)

KUSUMOTO, KEIICHI

Examiner

Paresh Patel

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-24 and 44-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22, 24, 46, 48 and 52-66 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-21, 23, 44, 45, 47 and 49-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20-24 and 44-66 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 22, 24, 46, 48 and 52-66 are withdrawn from further consideration, as being drawn to a non-elected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Claims 22, 24, 46 and 48 which depends from independent claims 20 and 44 were examined in the previous office action (paper no. 7) are withdrawn because structurally they are different embodiment and do not read on elected species 5 (fig. 11).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20-21, 23, 44-45, 47 and 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gray (US 5793126).

Regarding claims 20 and 44, Gray in fig. 2 discloses: a semiconductor device having a semiconductor integrated circuit [10], the semiconductor device comprising:

a first internal line [a line between Q_n and Q_{n+1}] provided within the semiconductor integrated circuit;

a first internal terminal [node where 70 and Q_n connected], a second internal terminal [node between Q_{n+1} and Q_{n+2} where 71 is connected] and a third internal terminal [node between Q_n and Q_{n+1} where 60 is connected] provided within the semiconductor integrated circuit;

a first external line [line of 32] provided outside the semiconductor integrated circuit;

a second external line [line of 30] provided outside the semiconductor integrated circuit and adapted to be [via Q_n , Q_{n+1} , Q_{n+2} ...] connected to the first internal line;

a first connection [70] for connecting the first external line and the first internal terminal;

a second connection [71] for connecting the first external line and the second internal terminal.

a third connection [60] for connecting the second external line and the third internal terminal.

a first switch [Q_n] connected between the first internal terminal and the first internal line; and

a second switch [Q_{n+1}] connected between the second internal terminal and the first internal line.

Regarding claims 21, 45 and 51, Gray discloses: within the semiconductor integrated circuit [10] a switch controlling section [20, 24] for controlling opening and closing of the first and second switches.

Regarding claims 23 and 47, Gray discloses: a power source terminal [terminal of 24] of the switch controlling section is connected [via 50 or 51] to the first internal line [a line between Q_n and Q_{n+1}]; and

a grounding terminal [inherent to 20, 24 and 10] of the switch controlling section is connected to an internal grounding line [inherent to 10] connected to a grounding line provided outside [line between ground and terminal of 10 of fig. 1] the semiconductor integrated circuit.

Regarding claim 49, Gray discloses: the second external line is connected to the first internal line without passing through the switch [using 60].

Regarding claim 50, Gray discloses: the second external line is directly connected to the first internal line [see 60].

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paresh Patel whose telephone number is 703-306-5859. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30 to 4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on 703-308-1233. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Paresh Patel
March 13, 2003


KAMAND CUNEO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800